CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF CANCER OF THE BREAST.

EDITOR OF ANNALS OF SURGERY:

In his exhaustive and carefully prepared article on "The Operative Treatment of Cancer of the Breast," which appeared in the issue of the ANNALS OF SURGERY for December, 1904, Dr. J. Collins Warren, of Boston, says as follows: "In the greater portion of the second series the method known as the Halsted operation was conscientiously followed. Latterly, however, *i.e.*, during the past year, I have adopted the method given below, and find it one that I can recommend as both safe and thorough, etc."

The operation described by Dr. Warren, as adopted within the last year, is in every essential the operation which I published in the *New York Medical Record* of December 15, 1894, in a paper which was read before the Section on Surgery of the New York Academy on November 12, 1894.

Though cognizant of the merits of Halsted's operation, I have always within the last ten years emphasized my conviction that my operation, which was published simultaneously, but entirely independently, from that of Halsted, could be claimed to be the more anatomical one. And this for the reason that the operator works from the axilla towards the thorax, from the tendons towards the origin of the pectoral muscles in an almost bloodless way. Almost bloodless, because he can thus secure the vessels at their exit and entrance from and to the axillary and subclavian vessels.

Since 1894 I have taken occasion to discuss my method whenever presenting patients thus operated upon before various societies, in particular before the New York Surgical Society, the

Transactions of which are published in the ANNALS OF SURGERY (*cf.* also Charles N. Dowd, "A Study of Twenty-nine Cases of Cancer of the Breast submitted to Operation," ANNALS OF SURGERY, 1898, Vol. xxvii, page 285).

For the last meeting of the American Medical Association (Atlantic City, June, 1904), I had announced a paper, "Ten Years' Experience with My Radical Operation for Carcinoma of the Breast." The title appeared in the provisional programme. To my sincere regret, I had to forego the pleasure of reading it for special reasons. It was due to the courtesy of the Chairman of the Section on Surgery, Dr. Charles A. Powers, that I could briefly outline my operation, as I am carrying it out to-day. In introducing my remarks I said that I had hoped to discuss Dr. Warren's paper on carcinoma of the breast, the title of which appeared on the official programme. Unfortunately, Dr. Warren's paper was not read. (*cf.* Journal of the American Medical Association, Report of June 25, 1904.)

Since then I have read my article, previously announced, before the meeting of the New York State Medical Association, October 18, 1904, and before the Section on Surgery of the New York Academy of Medicine, November 4, 1904, showing every step of the operation in drawings, reproduced from photographs of dissections on the cadaver.

I can only account for the omission of my name in connection with the operation now described by Dr. Warren on the ground that he did not append any bibliography in his article. The evolution of this operation I have demonstrated to many American and European colleagues in my hospital and private work in the course of the last ten years.

WILLY MEYER, M.D.

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